

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 L-02 H-01 NSC-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 /045 W

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O 031908Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9045

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 8792

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PAN AM PROPOSED CHANGE OF GAUGE

REF STATE 263487

1. REFTEL APPARENTLY DRAFTED PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF EMBASSY'S 8714. WE COVERED POINTS RE CAPACITY BETWEEN CARACAS AND BA AND COMPETITIVE POSITION IN US/ARGENTINA MARKET REPEATEDLY IN DISCUSSION WITH NEME AND OTHER OFFICIALS, BUT TO NO AVAIL.

2. PAN AM REP CALLED ON AMBASSADOR DEC 3 TO REQUEST PROMPT REPRESENTATIONS AT FONOFF MINISTERIAL LEVEL FOR A REVERSAL OF DNTAC DECISION NOT RPT NOT, TO AUTHORIZE FREQUENCY WITH PANAMA OVERFLIGHT AND CHANGE OF GAUGE IN CARACAS. PANAM'S SUGGESTION IS THAT AMBASSADOR SHOULD CITE A) THE INSOLUBLE (ACCORDING TO PAN AM REP) OPERATIONAL AND ROUTING DIFFICULTIES POSED BY PAN AM ON ITS BA SERVICE IF FREQUENCY NOT APPROVED; AND B) INDICATE US IS WILLING TO RESUME SUSPENDED BILATERAL TALKS, BUT NOT PREPARED TO DO SO WHILE ADVERSE AND UNJUSTIFIED DECISION COUNTER TO IMPORTANT INTERESTS OF A US CARRIER STANDS. GOA, AS AN EARNEST OF ITS DESIRE TO RESUME TALKS SHOULD APPROVE PAN AM FREQUENCY.

3. EMBASSY HAS NO DOUBT THAT GOA WANTS TO RESUME TALKS.

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(ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, NEME WAS ON THE POINT OF

DECIDING TO CANCEL THREE PAN AM FREQUENCIES IN ORDER TO PRECIPITATE ACTION, BUT OPTED IN FAVOR OF THE LESSER MEASURE OF VETOING A SINGLE FREQUENCY BECAUSE DNTAC KNEW THE FONOFF WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE MORE DRASTIC PROPOSAL.) HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS SOONEST AS TO WHETHER THE TRADE OFF WHICH PAN AM SUGGESTS IS AN APPROPRIATE BASIS FOR HIGHER LEVEL EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS.

4. EMBASSY HAS NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR A FULL ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES A RESUMPTION OF TALKS MIGHT REALISTICALLY HAVE. IT IS OUR INITIAL VIEW THAT THE GOA MIGHT STILL BE INTERESTED IN ACCEPTING THE 1972 MEMORANDUM. AS AN ALTERNATIVE THERE MIGHT BE AT LEAST SOME INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING, WITH OR WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE MEMORANDUM WHICH WOULD PERMIT INCREASES OF FREQUENCIES BY BOTH US AND ARGENTINE CARRIERS. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THESE POSSIBILITIES. THE MAIN FACT IN FAVOR OF SOME SUCCESS WITH THE GOA AT THIS POINT IS THAT AT CURRENT FREQUENCIES AIRCRAFT ARE OVERBOOKED AND OFTEN FLYING WITH 100 PERCENT PLUS LOAD FACTORS. NEITHER PUBLIC NOR CARRIER INTERESTS ARE BEING SERVED.
HILL

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